

Name: _____

Belief System Discussion

Your group should discuss each of the belief systems studied by members of your group. As you discuss the belief systems, keep these questions in mind:

1. What commonalities did you find among the belief-ways your group discussed?
2. What were the major differences?
3. Based on what you researched and learned in the discussion, how might the similarities and differences be explained?
4. What most surprised you about the belief-way you researched as well as what you learned from today's discussion?

At the end of the discussion, you will be turning in answers to the questions above, so you may want to take notes during the discussion.

You can use these questions to get started, but you are not required to discuss only these questions.

- What is the history of the beginning of the belief-way?
- Who was its founder?
- Where was it first practiced and where is it practiced today?
- About how many people practice it today?
- What are its major tenets?
- What is its position on the intersection of religious life and political life?
- What is its position on controversial topics such as abortion and stem cell research?
- What are some of its major rituals?
- What controversies are there in the religion today?
- How is it related to other belief systems?
- What is its relationship to the natural environment?
- What is its view on the physical body?
- How does it approach interpretation of its holy texts or myths (e.g., is it metaphor, etc.?)

When you are finished with the discussion, answer the four questions starting on the flip-side of this page and fill out the self-assessment. When you are finished, turn in your work and you are free to go.

Please write legibly.

Answer the questions below. Please DO NOT write an essay – lists are fine, a Venn diagram works if you combine questions 1 and 2. Make sure you name the belief systems.

1. What commonalities did you find among the belief systems your group discussed?

2. What were the major differences?

3. Based on what you researched and learned in the discussion, how might the similarities and differences be explained?
4. What most surprised you about the belief system you researched as well as what you learned from today's discussion?

Self-Assessment

On a scale of 0-5, please evaluate yourself using the following criteria. Write your score in the line to the left of the outcome. If you want to add comments, please do so in the space underneath the outcome.

0 = did not do

1 = poor (brief coverage/mention)

2 = barely adequate (just enough coverage/information to whet the appetite)

3 = adequate/average (adequately covered—about what you might expect)

4 = good (some extra details)

5 = excellent (great detail)

Communication Skills:

_____ successfully completed team work both in- and out-of-class: *fully participated in the discussion—this means more than simple agreement with peers—must be substantial comments and questions; appropriate behavior exhibited*

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills:

_____ recognized key elements of human culture: *was able to identify specific characteristics of belief systems using appropriate anthropological terminology*

_____ assessed interaction between culture, environment and biology: *able to discover the religion's perspective on the environment and body; clear understanding of how these things are interrelated*

_____ identified cultural traits and determined their function within their cultural context: *cultural relativism evident; can identify similarities between belief systems*

Information Literacy:

_____ used discipline-specific databases and utilized a variety of library and online resources: *used a combination of sources from the campus library and the Internet*

_____ assessed anthropological information in general and scholarly resources: *included information only from reliable, accurate, credible sources that are suitable for college-level work*